**Introduction**

*What are the MAISA Units? From what you gather, how are teachers expected to use them?*

The MAISA Units are units based on the common core standards that give a specific time frame students should use on each topic. Teachers are expected to use them the way MAISA spreads them out over the course of a school year.

*What grade level did you choose and why?*

I chose Kindergarten because I am in a Kindergarten placement and I hope to one day teach kindergarten.

*What are your goals for this assignment?*

My goals for this assignment are to get a better understanding and overall view on what it looks like to teach writing in the kindergarten classroom according to the standards and core curriculum.

**Description and Summary**

*What units are included in this curriculum map?*

The units included in the curriculum mad are oral language: building a talking community, launching the writing workshop, label and list in content area, growing as small moment writers, opinion letter, writing of a sequence: How-To Books, and informational writing personal expertise.

*What genres are students asked to write?*

They are using mentor texts, story, small moment, personal narrative, pictures, pattern books, letters and much more!

*What priorities for writing do you see within these units?*

A lot of the priorities for writing include getting the students started with the writing process. They also get students to be able to think and create their own ideas and opinions. As well as, getting them to take factual information and write about it. It also focuses on asking questions about how writers would do or would use a tool to write. Getting students focused on specifics in starting out writing.

**Analysis**

*Do the MAISA Units reflect a Writers Workshop approach to writing instruction or no? In what ways yes and in what ways no?*

I would say that the MAISA Units do reflect a writer’s workshop approach in a way. They all seem to start off with refreshing the memory of how good writers write, and the process in which they need to go through to write a good piece of writing. However, I feel as though it is very strict and there is no room to wiggle in the MAISA. I do like how they use different genres in their units!

*What connections can you make between these units and specific key concepts from this course and course readings? (e.g., making time for regular writing each day, shared writing, mentor texts, studying writers craft, minilessons, doing what real writers do, conferencing, writing for real audiences, etc. These are just a few off the top of my head.)*

I have made connections to almost everything we have discussed in the course. The units are set up to take up the whole school year, there are multiple genres weaved into the units, focusing on how a real writer writes and why, as well as sharing with peers, teachers, and the community. There is so much that the MAISA shoves into each unit, but as a teacher that is what should be expected!

**Evaluation**

*Is this what you expected to see?*

I expected to see all of the information that a teacher would need. I was surprised at how organized and easy it was to follow. I expected it to be very overwhelming, and it really wasn’t. I also was not expecting to see the large layout full of extra information as well. For example including resources and focal points. I really liked the website and I thought I was going to hate it.

*Is this encouraging or discouraging to you as a new teacher?*

I find this very encouraging. It can all be very scary as a new teacher thinking about the one million things you have to do before the end of the school year. Seeing this is very calming and reassuring that it will all be okay, and it is all do-able.

*What priorities do you have for teaching writing? Does this curriculum map reflect your priorities?*

My one priorities for teaching writing is to do the best I can, and give my students the most I can. I think this curriculum map does reflect my priorities. It starts off with the basics and moves to more difficult and more challenging topics for the students. It gives them the best writing experience in the proper amount of time!

**Extension**

*Finally, what new thoughts and questions does this curriculum document raise for you?*

I think that it does the opposite! It answers my questions and calms my fears. I just want to see and experience it being put to use more! (Which I do now and I will in my future teaching placements!)